

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 105

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Senator and Mrs. Ben Atchley on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy couple is our very own Senator Ben Atchley and his beloved wife Sue, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on March 16, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Ben was a junior and the former Sue King a freshman at Young High School when they met at a talent show; Sue placed first and Ben second in the competition, an order that for 50 glorious years has also been reflected in their marriage; and

WHEREAS, Senator Atchley was a Baptist and a democrat before he met Sue but is now a republican and a Presbyterian; and

WHEREAS, born the oldest of five brothers, including Bob, Ed, Blaine and Jack, Ben knew he was getting another brother every time the doctor would come to their house on Martin Mill Pike with his black bag; and

WHEREAS, Ben's father, Curtis Bentley "Pap-paw" Atchley, Sr., bought an old school bus and turned it into the "Yellow Jacket Diner," where Ben and Bob served hot tamales, "full

houses," hamburgers and hot dogs; the diner was "supposedly" purchased by their father to keep them out of trouble during their high school days; and

WHEREAS, the Atchleys also operated a grocery store on Chapman Highway, where the boys would stock shelves, and learned to drive while delivering groceries at the wheel of the Atchley Grocery Store's grocery trucks; and

WHEREAS, although Ben was a dedicated member of the Boy Scouts, he was also known as a good boxer in his day; not just anyone could be coaxed into the ring with him, however, the intrepid few that liked the challenge of a good match were promptly "dispatched"; and

WHEREAS, with the possibility of Ben being drafted into the military during the Korean War, he and his lovely bride, who was then a senior at Young High School, set out on their honeymoon for Gatlinburg...with \$34 in their pockets; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from their honeymoon, during which time they were visited by family members and friends as part of a joke, the Atchleys lived in the "flat top" house on Old Sevierville Pike, near the New Prospect Presbyterian Church where they were married; and

WHEREAS, Sue was the lead singer for "The Prospectors" band, and it was not uncommon to find Ben playing bass, drums and other instruments to support his wife's musical endeavors. The Atchleys hosted practice sessions for the band and entertained neighbors who came to their home to listen to the band practicing; and

WHEREAS, music has always come naturally to Sue, who also plays the piano and has served as choir director at her church; as a child, her family encouraged Sue to exhibit her beautiful voice in singing performances throughout Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, an extremely gifted lady, Sue grew up in South Knoxville, and was the first Tupperware dealer in Knoxville in the early 1950s, and has served with dedication as president of the PTA at Giffin School and taught bowling; and

WHEREAS, a prodigious cook who is widely known for her critically acclaimed cornbread and pinto bean dinners, Sue saw to it that her children were duly informed of the art

of culinary science; to this day they are of the unbiased opinion that she is the world's greatest cook, save for breakfast, where during the week they were taught to fend for themselves as Mom was not the most early of risers; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life Sue has selflessly given of her time to care for family members and friends with varying needs, often sacrificing time with Senator Atchley as a result; and

WHEREAS, the Atchley children, Jerry and Cindy, can vividly recall "Mom" playing the role of the "Atchley Taxi Driver" in her big winged "Bat-mobile," driving to sporting events, singing practices and the swimming pool at the La Bon; and

WHEREAS, Ben and Sue have actively supported the Knoxville Doyle High School Athletic/Boosters Club athletics, including their effort to raise funds for the construction of bleachers at the football field; Senator Atchley was also the public announcer for the football games when Jerry was playing; and

WHEREAS, he is a successful insurance executive and a voice of integrity on Capitol Hill, having served as a member of the General Assembly for 28 distinguished years; and

WHEREAS, the longtime Senate Republican Leader began his meritorious service in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1972 prior to being elected to the State Senate in 1976, and he has distinguished himself as an astute and adroit leader in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Ben Atchley has served with probity as a member of the Legislative Leaders Foundation, and continues to serve that august body as Chairman Emeritus, a position that has afforded Sue and him the opportunity to travel worldwide in carrying out his responsibilities to the Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Ben's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the Atchleys are known throughout the Knoxville community as outstanding citizens, good parents and wonderful friends; they evince their religious faith as members of Graystone Presbyterian Church, where Sue is a church Deacon, member of the choir and former choir director, and Ben is a choir member and Elder; and

WHEREAS, their greatest attribute is their love of family, including their two children, and their grandchildren, Lori and Jennifer Atchley, who are affectionately referred to by Sue as her "grandbabies"; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Ben and Sue Atchley on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.